



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Oregon State Office
1300 N.E. 44th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97213

August 1992



Executive Summary

Western Oregon Draft Resource Management Plans/ Environmental Impact Statements

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As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interest of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

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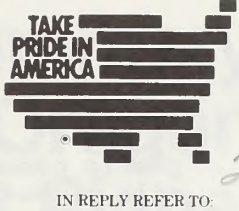
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Oregon State Office
P.O. Box 2965 (1300 N.E. 44th Avenue)
Portland, Oregon 97208



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August 1992

Dear Reader:

Attached is an executive summary of six draft Resource Management Plans/Environmental Impact Statements the BLM has recently sent out for public comment. These documents address management of over 2.5 million acres of western Oregon Federal lands in the Salem, Eugene, Coos Bay, Roseburg, and Medford BLM Districts and the Klamath Falls Resource Area of the Lakeview District. These plans have been prepared in conformance with land use planning procedures established by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. Guidance for preparation of the plans provided for a reasonably consistent planning process for all six plans while allowing for plan content that could be responsive to the different and sometimes unique physical and biological conditions in each planning area.

Each of the six documents considers seven management alternatives, each alternative with a different emphasis and addressing the planning issues in a different way. Public comment played an important role in shaping both the issues and the alternatives analyzed in the Draft RMP/EISs. Before the Preferred Alternatives were developed, suggestions received from individuals, interest groups, and other governmental entities were thoroughly considered. These suggestions were used to strike a reasonable balance, considering relevant legal mandates, between the expressed desires of some to emphasize the production of commodity resources; some to maintain the current flow of resources from public lands; and some to protect, restore and enhance natural values.

Through these Draft RMP/EISs the BLM has tentatively established: resource management goals (as expressed by each alternative); resource management objectives and specific management actions that would determine potential land uses; levels of resource production; areas in which use restrictions would apply; and lands that could be transferred, sold or exchanged.

The end product of this planning process will be Approved Resource Management Plans (ARMPs) that will integrate the natural resources and their subsequent uses into a balanced, sustainable approach to management for the life of the plans, or approximately 10 years. Your participation in guiding the future management of these lands is encouraged. The ARMPs will replace and supersede Management Framework Plans (MFPs) prepared in the early 1980s. When completed, the ARMPs will establish specific land use allocations and management direction for timber harvest, biological diversity, special status species, wildlife habitat, recreation, areas of critical environmental concern, visual resources, cultural resources, energy and minerals management, land tenure adjustments and rights-of-way and will identify rivers potentially suitable for national wild, scenic or recreational river status.

This executive summary provides the reader with an overview of the total BLM western Oregon planning process to date and summarizes alternatives in the six draft plans. Copies of individual DRMP/EISs can be obtained from the issuing BLM district or resource area offices (see list below). All comments should be directed to those offices. Comments applicable to processes or content common to other DRMP/EISs will be shared among offices during the

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public comment analysis process. The comment period for all six DRMP/EISS will close December 21, 1992.

Salem District Office
1717 Fabry Road S.E.
Salem, OR 97306
(503) 375-5646

Coos Bay District Office
1300 Airport Lane
North Bend, OR 97459
(503) 756-0100

Eugene District Office
2890 Chad Drive
P.O. Box 10226
Eugene, OR 97440
(503) 683-6600

Medford District Office
3040 Biddle Road
Medford, OR 97504
(503) 770-2200

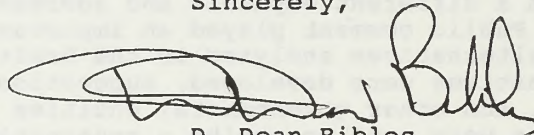
Roseburg District Office
777 N.W. Garden Valley Blvd.
Roseburg, OR 97470
(503) 672-4491

Klamath Falls R.A.
2795 Anderson Ave. Bldg. 25
Klamath Falls, OR 97603
(503) 883-6916

Public meetings will be held in all districts during the comment period. Dates and times of the meetings may be obtained from the district or resource area offices.

Thank you for your interest in the management of BLM-administered lands.

Sincerely,



D. Dean Bibles
State Director

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Executive Summary Western Oregon Draft Resource Management Plans/ Environmental Impact Statements

Introduction

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administers the use of a variety of natural resources on over 2.5 million acres in western Oregon (including part of Klamath County), shown on Map 1 (BLM-Administered Lands).

These western Oregon lands involve an extensive checkerboard and fragmented land ownership pattern and include nearly 2.1 million acres known formally as the Revested Oregon and California Railroad lands (O & C lands); almost 400,000 acres of largely scattered public domain lands; and about 75,000 acres of reconveyed Coos Bay Wagon Road lands (CBWR lands). Forested lands in western Oregon total some 2,250,000 acres or 88 percent of the total.

BLM has recently issued six draft resource management plans (RMPs) and associated environmental impact statements (EISs) covering all of the lands it administers in western Oregon. These plans, when completed in final form, will supersede and replace existing management framework plans that currently provide overall management direction for these lands. The draft RMP/EISs have been prepared in accordance with BLM planning regulations issued under authority of the Federal Land Policy and Management

Act and written in accordance with Council on Environmental Quality regulations issued under authority of the National Environmental Policy Act.

The six draft plans and BLM offices that prepared them, are as follows:

Salem RMP, Salem District
Eugene RMP, Eugene District
Roseburg RMP, Roseburg District
Coos Bay RMP, Coos Bay District
Medford RMP, Medford District
Klamath Falls RMP, Klamath Falls Resource Area of the Lakeview District

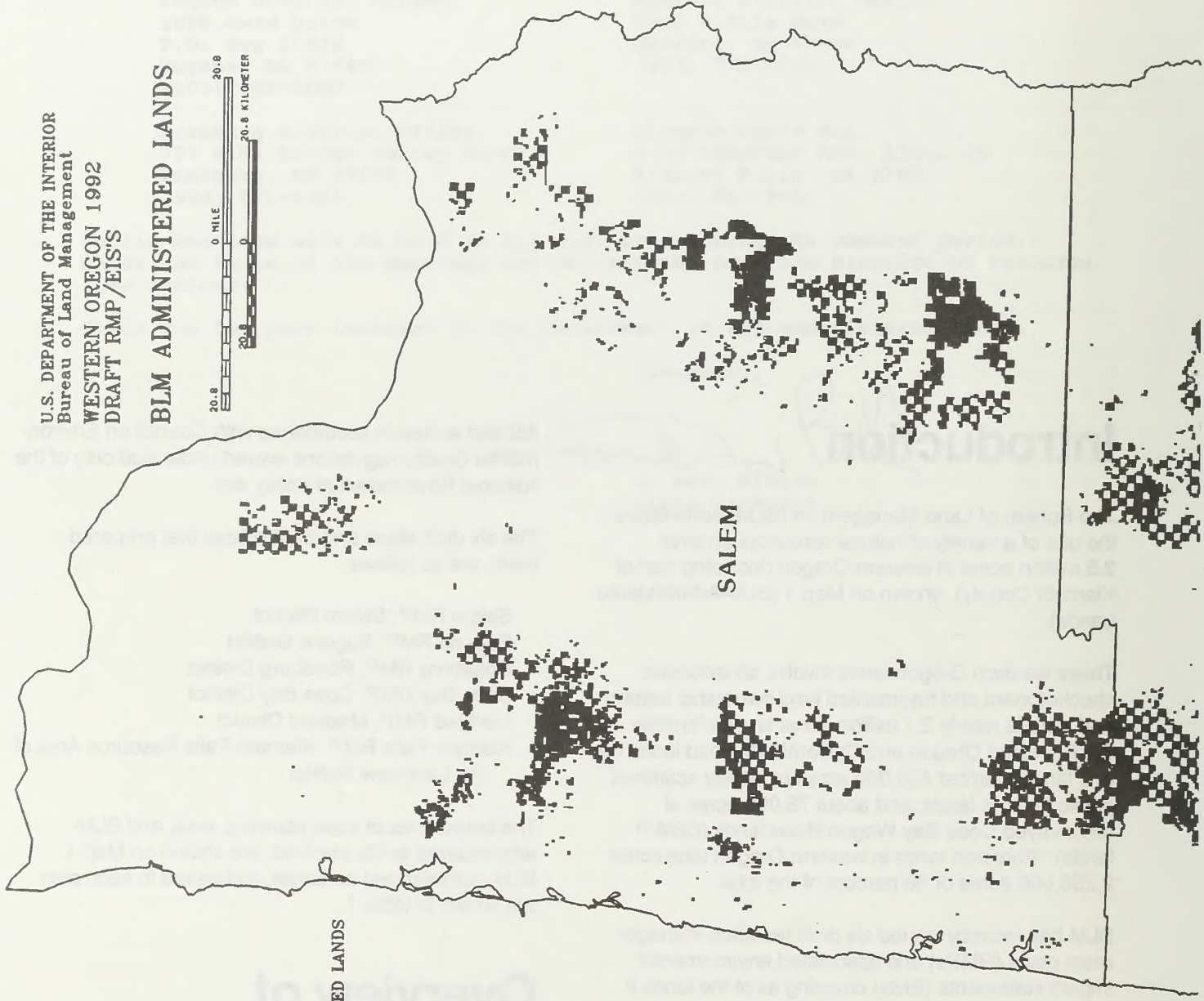
The boundaries of each planning area, and BLM-administered lands involved, are shown on Map 1. BLM-administered acreages addressed in each plan are shown in table 1.

Overview of Alternatives

For each draft plan, seven management alternatives have been developed to provide a range of responses to major issues identified earlier in the planning pro-

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DRAFT RMP/EIS'S

BLM ADMINISTERED LANDS



MAP 1

LEGEND :

- BLM ADMINISTERED LANDS
- PLANNING AREA BOUNDARIES

Planning Issues and
Major Concerns
Addressed by the
Preferred Alternative

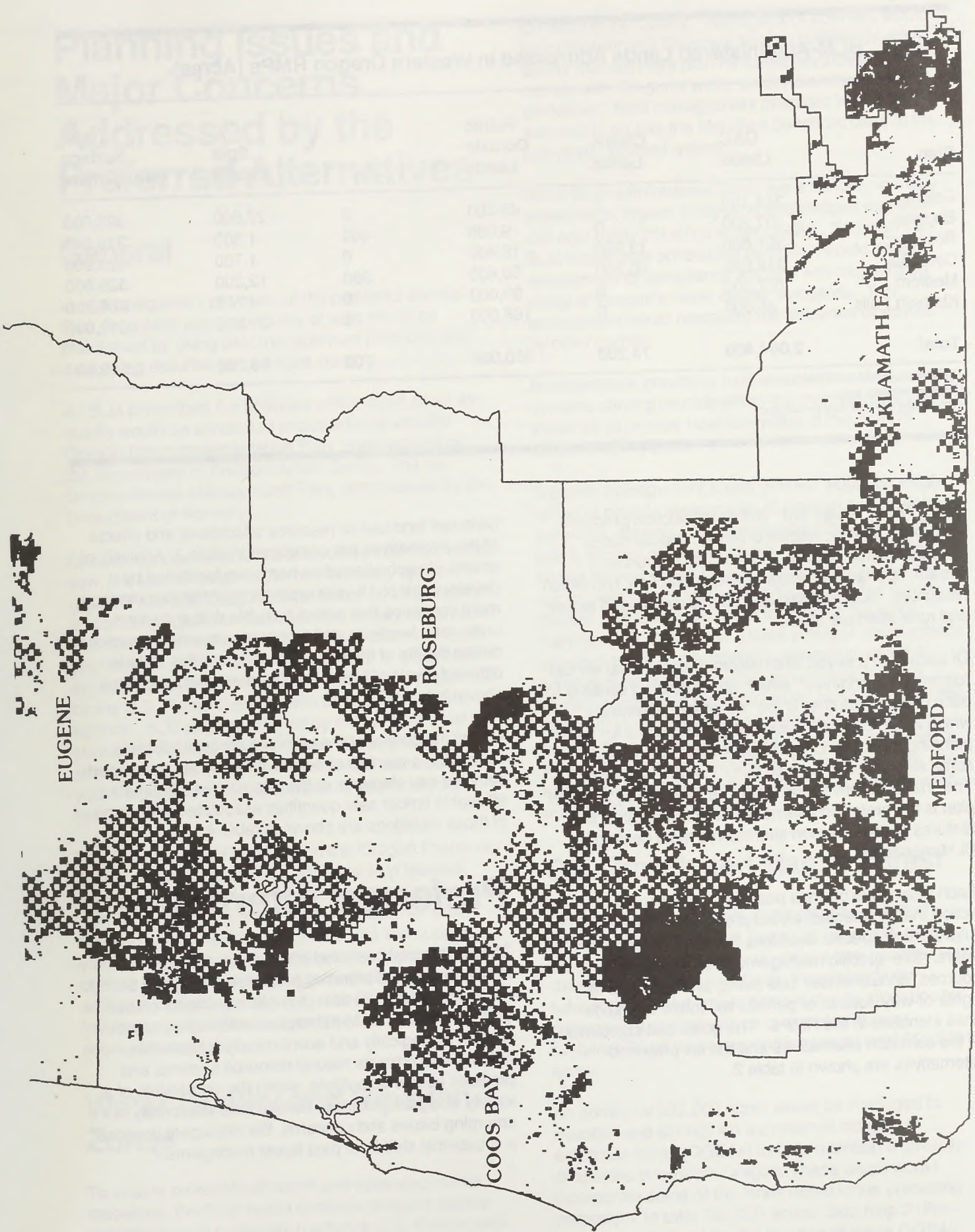


Table 1. BLM-Administered Lands Addressed in Western Oregon RMPs (Acres).

Plan	O&C Lands	CBWR Lands	Public Domain Lands	Other ¹	Split Estate ²	Total ³ Surface Management
Salem	344,400	0	49,200	0	27,800	393,600
Eugene	307,200	0	9,000	400	1,300	316,600
Roseburg	391,600	13,900	18,400	0	1,700	423,900
Coos Bay	218,500	60,300	50,400	300	12,200	329,600
Medford	767,300	0	99,000	0	4,700	866,300
Klamath Falls	46,000	0	166,000	0	21,000	212,000
Total	2,064,400	74,200	390,000	700	68,700	2,542,000

¹Acquired and Railroad Grant Lands

²Federal minerals only

³Totals may not add, due to rounding

cess. These issues are: timber production practices; old growth forests; habitat diversity; special status species habitat; special areas; visual resources; stream, riparian and water quality protection; recreation resources, including wild and scenic rivers; land tenure; and rural interface areas.

Of each plan's seven alternatives, five are what we call "common alternatives", which are structured similarly in each district. Another is the "no action" alternative, which would be continuation of existing plans for each planning area. Although these existing plans have some similarities, they also differ in many respects. The final alternative (and last to be developed) for each plan is the preferred alternative, which combines the features of the common alternatives most desired by BLM managers.

Each alternative offers a possible broad course of action that, if selected, would provide guidelines for future, more specific decisions for approximately ten years. Site-specific management for various resources, annual timber sale plans, and issuance of rights-of-way, leases or permits will follow the guidelines identified in the RMPs. The goals and objectives of the common alternatives and the six preferred alternatives are shown in table 2.

Selected land-use or resource allocations and effects of the alternatives are compared in table 3. Analysis of effects of each alternative has been facilitated by development of 10-year representative timber management scenarios that reflect possible timber harvest units, road locations and timber management practices during the life of the plan. These scenarios include different levels of forest management practices, also shown in table 3.

During the course of the planning process, districts conducted a number of sensitivity analyses that varied selected key elements of the alternatives. Estimated allowable timber sale quantities associated with some of those variations are shown in table 4.

Preferred Alternatives

The six districts' preferred alternatives are BLM's initially suggested planning proposals. They will be reconsidered after review of public comments on the draft RMP/EISs. BLM managers believe they represent an ecologically and economically sustainable balance that protects natural resource systems and provides economic outputs, within the constraints of a variety of legal mandates. In response to recently emerging issues and concerns, the managers propose a substantial shift from past forest management.

Planning Issues and Major Concerns Addressed by the Preferred Alternatives

General

In all management practices of the preferred alternatives, long-term site productivity of soils would be maintained by using best management practices and minimizing disturbance of fragile areas.

All BLM prescribed fire activities which could affect air quality would be conducted in accordance with the Oregon State Implementation Plan, administered by the Department of Environmental Quality, and the Oregon Smoke Management Plan, administered by the Department of Forestry.

Special management would be provided for the Pacific yew, the bark of which is the only currently approved (by the Food and Drug Administration) source of taxol, a promising agent for treatment of a variety of cancers. The strategy for management and collection of Pacific yew bark on federal lands is the subject of a separate environmental impact statement (EIS) being prepared by the U.S. Forest Service, with BLM as a cooperating agency. BLM actions covered by the six RMPs will be consistent with the strategy under development. This strategy would include how to ensure a sustainable yew supply with full consideration of yew ecosystem relationships.

The BLM would aid and support the Oregon Economic Development Department's efforts to help isolated, small communities develop and implement alternative economic strategies as a partial substitute for their faltering timber-based economies. Aid and support would consist mostly of coordination and prioritization of BLM recreation and management development activities mutually perceived by the BLM and the involved communities as benefiting the identified economic strategies.

Water Quality and Riparian Zones

To ensure protection of water and water-dependent resources, the BLM would continue nonpoint source management in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Oregon Department of

Environmental Quality. Management activities would be consistent with Oregon's adopted statewide water quality management plan for forest practices, and comply with Oregon's water quality standards and guidelines. Best management practices would be selected to protect the identified beneficial uses of the potentially affected waters.

Since BLM-administered lands are a minority in many watersheds, impact analysis acknowledges that BLM can only partly influence water quality. Factored into BLM timber sale scheduling decisions would be an assessment of compliance with the anti-degradation policy of Oregon's water quality standards. This assessment would recognize the influence of actions by other parties.

In watersheds providing surface water to public water systems serving municipalities the management goal would be to provide treatable water at the point of intake to the system.

Riparian management areas (RMAs) would be established to provide stewardship of riparian zones along perennial streams and other streams that carry fish and to protect natural functions. Within these RMAs, no timber harvest would be planned as part of the sustained yield timber management program but some harvest activities could occur to achieve resource management objectives. These activities could include selective harvest of hardwood-dominated stands to achieve diversification, and road construction and yarding corridors to facilitate timber harvest outside the RMA. RMA widths would be determined by on-the-ground riparian vegetation and stream characteristics. Average widths are expected to be approximately one and a half times the widths of riparian zones, or wider on small fish-bearing streams.

Old-Growth and Mature Forest

Old-growth conifer stands inventoried by the BLM contain dominant trees at least 200 years old, generally a multilayered canopy of various tree species, and standing and fallen dead trees. Forest lands not subject to planned timber harvest due to allocation for protection of special values or concern about sustainability of timber production would total 552,000 acres.

An additional 582,000 acres would be managed to maintain and strengthen a system of old-growth emphasis areas (OGEAs) to help maintain a diversity of species in western Oregon. These areas would incorporate some of the lands noted in the preceding paragraph, to total 793,000 acres. See map 2 (Preferred Alt. Strategy) for the location of these OGEAs.

Table 2. Goals and Objectives of Alternatives

Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
GOALS:	<p>Emphasize timber production to contribute to community stability consistent with the variety of other land uses such as fish and wildlife habitat, recreation, and scenic resources on O&C and CBWR lands. Give equal consideration to all resource values on public domain lands.</p>	<p>Provide timber production to contribute to community stability consistent with maintenance of biological diversity and the variety of other uses such as fish and wildlife habitat, recreation, and scenic resources on all lands.</p>
OBJECTIVES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce a high sustained yield of timber on O&C and CBWR lands, and on public domain lands where nontimber uses and values are of lesser importance than timber production. • Contribute to ecological functions important to timber productivity and to habitat diversity using a system that maintains old growth and mature forest in large and small blocks. • Protect habitat of all threatened and endangered species and species with high potential for listing. Protect habitat of other species of substantial concern to the extent consistent with high timber production. • Retain existing Research Natural Areas (RNAs) and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs). Provide new ones from eligible areas to the extent consistent with the emphasis on timber production. • Manage scenic resources in selected areas of high recreation use. • Meet legal requirements for protection of wetlands and water quality and provide moderate additional protection for anadromous fish habitat, other substantial streams, and other water. • Provide for a wide range of developed and dispersed motorized recreation uses and opportunities, to minimize conflicts among recreation user groups. • Find eligible river segments suitable for designation as recreational, if they are important and manageable, and designation would not cause adverse economic impact. • Make land tenure adjustments which enhance BLM long-term sustained yield timber harvest opportunities on O&C and CBWR lands, and which benefit a variety of uses and values on public domain lands. • Adopt appropriate special forest management practices on BLM-administered lands intermingled with or adjacent to rural interface areas zoned for most dense residential occupancy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce a moderate sustained yield of timber. • Provide biological diversity using a system that maintains some old growth and mature forest, focusing on protection of areas where special status plant and animal species cluster. • Protect habitat of all threatened and endangered species and species with high potential for listing. Protect habitat of other species of substantial concern through emphasis on biological diversity and to the extent consistent with moderate timber production. • Retain existing RNAs and ACECs. Provide new ones from eligible areas except where lands managed by others are considered to provide more appropriate opportunities. • Manage scenic resources in selected high use areas, particularly emphasizing protection in corridors of existing and proposed wild and scenic rivers and major trails. • Provide substantial protection for anadromous fish habitat, other substantial streams and other water environments. • Provide for a wide range of recreation opportunities emphasizing dispersed use, while reducing conflicts among recreational user groups. • Find eligible river segments suitable for designation as scenic or recreational, if they are important and manageable, but not suitable for designation as scenic if designation would cause adverse economic impact. • Make land tenure adjustments to benefit a variety of uses and values. • Adopt appropriate special forest management practices in rural interface areas zoned for moderate or high density residential occupancy.

Alternative D

Emphasize protection and reestablishment of spotted owl habitat, along with management and enhancement of other values such as dispersed nonmotorized recreation opportunities and scenic resources, while sustaining some timber production.

- Produce a sustained yield of timber consistent with allocations for other uses and values.
- Protect habitat of the spotted owl in accordance with the Owl Conservation Strategy.
- Protect habitat of all threatened and endangered species, species with high potential for listing, and species of related concern.
- Retain all existing RNAs and ACECs. Provide new ones from eligible areas except where lands managed by others are considered to provide more appropriate opportunities.
- Manage all identified scenic resources.
- Provide substantial protection for wetlands and riparian areas along most streams and other water.
- Emphasize dispersed nonmotorized recreation opportunities.
- Find eligible river segments suitable for designation as wild, scenic or recreational, if they are important and manageable.
- Make land tenure adjustments which would emphasize enhancement of nontimber uses and values.
- Adopt special timber harvest and forest management practices in rural interface areas zoned for moderate or high density residential occupancy.

Alternative E

Emphasize protection of older forests and management and enhancement of values such as dispersed nonmotorized recreation opportunities and scenic resources.

- Produce a sustained yield of timber consistent with allocations for other uses and values.
- Protect all old growth and older mature forests.
- Protect habitat of all threatened and endangered species, species with high potential for listing and species of related concern.
- Retain all existing RNAs and ACECs and designate all eligible areas.
- Manage all identified scenic resources and provide some visual resource protection for all lands.
- Manage all riparian areas and wetlands to maintain and improve water quality and fisheries habitat, and contribute to wildlife habitat diversity.
- Emphasize dispersed nonmotorized outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Find all eligible river segments suitable for designation as wild, scenic or recreational rivers.
- Make land tenure adjustments which would emphasize enhancement of nontimber uses and values.
- Adopt special timber harvest and forest management practices extensively buffering rural interface areas zoned for moderate or high density residential occupancy and other rural interface areas as appropriate.

Preferred Alternative

Manage lands to contribute to community stability consistent with maintenance of ecosystems and a diversity of species; contribute to long-term recovery of the northern spotted owl; and maintain fish and wildlife habitat, and recreation, scenic and other resources.

- Produce a moderate sustained yield of timber.
- Manage biological diversity, provide regional and subregional connectivity, and contribute to recovery of the spotted owl, using a system that maintains and enhances old growth and mature forest in areas considered most important for recovery of the spotted owl and links those areas with lands managed to provide connectivity.
- Protect habitats of threatened and endangered species. Manage habitats of species of related concern to maintain their populations at a level which would avoid endangering the species.
- Retain existing RNAs and ACECs. Provide new ones from eligible areas where needed to maintain or protect important values.
- Manage scenic resources in selected high use areas.
- Provide substantial protection for anadromous fish habitat, other perennial streams, and other water environments.
- Provide for a wide range of developed and dispersed recreation opportunities, consistent with maintenance of ecosystems and a diversity of species, to minimize conflicts among recreation user groups.
- Find important and manageable river segments suitable for designation where such designation would contribute to the national wild and scenic river system and would cause no, or only limited, adverse economic impacts.
- Make land tenure adjustments to benefit a variety of uses and values.
- Adopt appropriate special forest management practices on BLM-administered lands close to rural interface areas.




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PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE STRATEGY



MAP 2

LEGEND :

-  OLD GROWTH ECOSYSTEM AREAS
-  CONNECTIVITY AREAS
-  PLANNING AREA BOUNDARIES



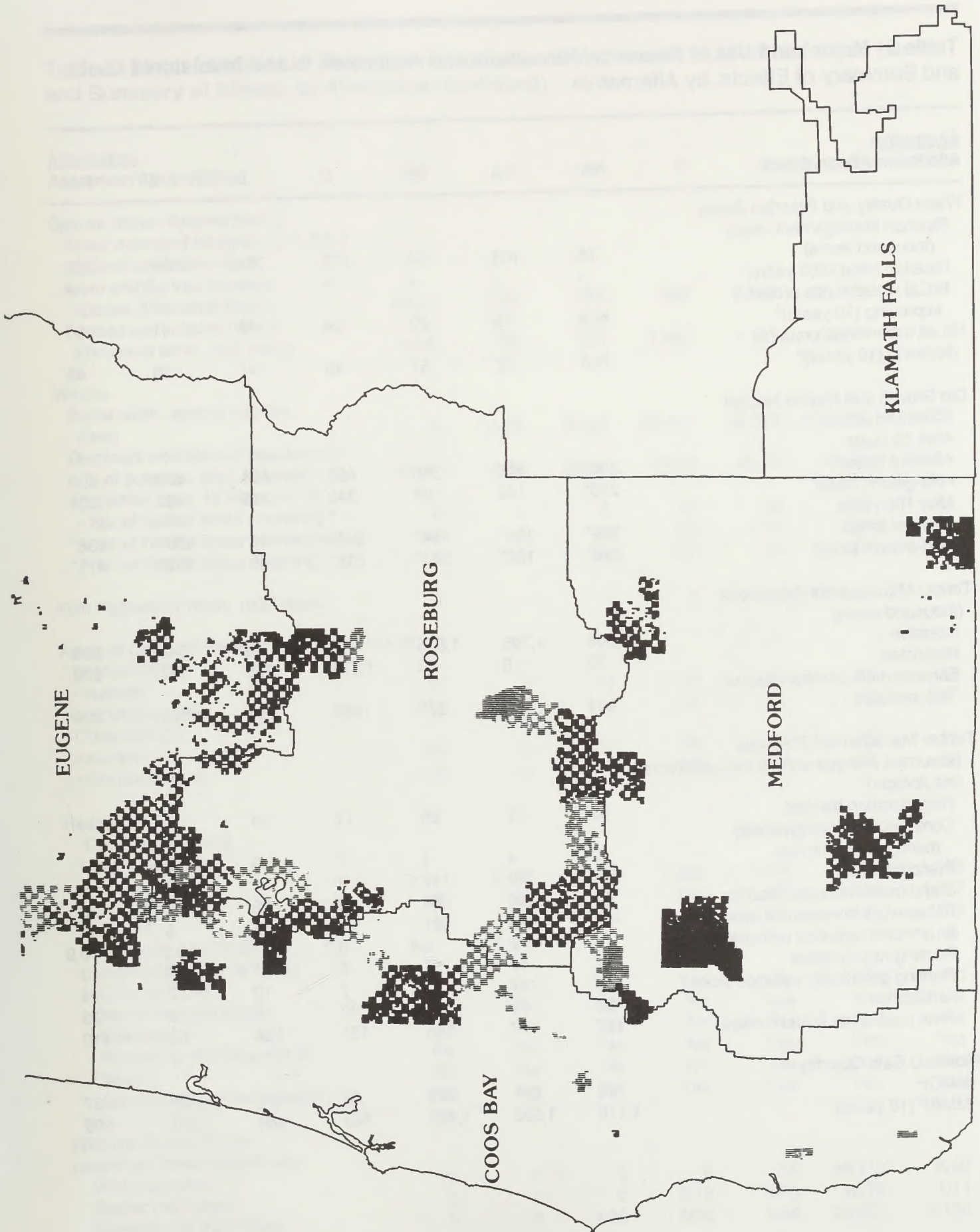


Table 3. Major Land Use or Resource Allocations and Actions on BLM-administered Lands and Summary of Effects, by Alternative

<u>Alternative</u> Allocation/Action/Effect	NA ¹	A	B	C	D	E	PA ²
Water Quality and Riparian Zones							
Riparian Management areas (thousand acres)	75	103	124	173	297	394	202
Riparian trend (200 years)	-	-	+	+	+	+	+
No. of water sheds probably improving (10 years) ³	N/A	19	22	34	44	41	35
No. of watersheds probably declining (10 years) ³	N/A	62	57	43	41	39	45
Old Growth and Mature Habitat (thousand acres)							
After 10 years							
• mature forest	330*	392	380	422	424	438	390
• old-growth forest	205*	142	193	342	335	382	324
After 100 years							
• mature forest	200*	133*	194*	945*	586*	697*	636*
• old-growth forest	298*	137*	242*	618*	506*	773*	475*
Timber Management Allocations (thousand acres)							
Intensive	1,608	1,795	1,615	0	0	348	599
Restricted	73	0	14	1,375	1,075	197	576
Enhancement of other uses or not available	364	182	375	687	996	1536	896
Timber Management Practices (assumed average annual thousand acres, first decade)							
Regeneration harvest	23	29	26	11	11	7	14
Commercial thinning/density management harvest	7	4	4	7	3	2	7
Prescribed fire	17	19	17	7	7	5	9
Stand maintenance/protection	31	36	34	18	18	12	23
Release/pre-commercial thinning	24	23	21	17	12	6	21
Brushfield/hardwood conversion	0.7	2.2	2.4	0.7	1.5	0.5	0.9
Planting regular stock	12	17	14	6	1.6	1.4	3
Planting genetically selected stock	15	17	17	7	10	7	14
Fertilization	33	31	30	22	14	9	23
New road const.(annual miles)	157	177	166	121	124	58	110
Allowable Sale Quantity							
MMCF	192	251	225	69	77	56	97
MMBF (10 years)	1,176	1,592	1,433	423	464	339	595

Table 3. Major Land Use or Resource Allocations and Actions on BLM-administered Lands and Summary of Effects, by Alternative (continued)

Alternative Allocation/Action/Effect	NA¹	A	B	C	D	E	PA²
Special Status Species Habitat							
Areas managed for category 1 and 2 federal candidate, state listed and Bureau sensitive species (thousand acres),	2,118	290	776	960	2,760	2,760	2,760
Spotted owl suitable habitat (thousand acres, 100 years)	N/A	198	339	1,647	1,155	1,463	1,201
Wildlife							
Buffer width, special habitats (feet)	0	0-75	0-100	50-200	75-300	100-400	100-200
Dominant woodpecker populations (% of potential, after 10 years)	38-57	0-52	38-53	48-64	49-65	49-63	49-61
Elk habitat, after 10 years (+, -, 0)							
• No. of habitat areas improving ⁴	0	1	3	10	15	17	21
• No. of habitat areas unchanged	9	8	10	28	31	35	39
• No. of habitat areas declining	66	66	62	37	29	23	15
Fish Population Trend, (200 years)	0	-	+	+	+	+	+
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC's)							
RNAs/ACECs							
• number	17	2	24	35	35	34	33
• thousand acres	6	1	11	21	21	18	17
Other ACECs							
• number	25	6	34	56	61	85	53
• thousand acres	15	2	19	124	137	169	36
Recreation							
ORV Designations (thousand acres)							
• Open	2,301	2,053	1,978	1,540	1,049	1,019	1,126
• Limited	190	436	497	906	1,485	1,794	1,727
• Closed	42	51	64	94	124	141	101
Recreation use (10 years), capability to meet demand ⁵							
• Off-road travel	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
• Non-motorized travel	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
• Camping	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
• Picnicking, studying nature	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
• Boating	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
• Swimming, general waterplay	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wild and Scenic Rivers (segments found suitable as)							
Wild (no./miles)	0	0	0	0	2/5	36/113	5/20
Scenic (no./miles)	0	0	0	2/12	4/33	10/76	1/11
Recreational (no./miles)	0	0	4/39	5/50	5/46	33/551	5/100

Table 3. Major Land Use or Resource Allocations and Actions on BLM-administered Lands and Summary of Effects, by Alternative (continued)

Alternative Allocation/Action/Effect	NA¹	A	B	C	D	E	PA²
Visual Resource Management (thousand acres)							
VRM Class I	48	35	42	42	42	118	40
VRM Class II	129	88	180	337	621	1,101	218
VRM Class III	262	110	222	458	541	1,320	583
VRM Class IV	2,085	2,304	2,094	1,701	1,335	0	1,497
Energy and Minerals (thousand acres)							
Areas closed to mining claim location and operation	49	50	64	101	115	145	89
Areas closed to oil and gas and geothermal leasing	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
Air Quality (thousand tons of fuel burned annually in prescribed fires, 10 years)⁶							
	380	442	432	249	225	190	279
Socioeconomic Conditions, Western Oregon (10 years)							
Jobs dependent on timber production	11,700	15,300	13,900	4,600	5,000	3,600	6,300
Jobs dependent on recreation on BLM-administered lands	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,200	1,300	1,300	1,300
Personal income dependent on BLM timber production (millions of dollars)	233	309	279	89	97	72	124
Personal income dependent on recreation on BLM administered lands (millions of dollars)	13	12	13	15	15	16	16
Average annual O&C receipts distributed to counties (millions of dollars)	113	142	131	44	49	37	62

¹NA = No Action Alternative

²PA = Preferred Alternative

³Cumulative effects, all ownerships. Only analytical watersheds where BLM administers substantial acreage were analyzed.

⁴Only areas where BLM administers substantial acreage were analyzed.

⁵Where the entry is No, demand may be met in some, but not all, planning areas.

⁶tons of slash burned correlates directly with the level of emissions.

N/A - Not Available (Not Calculated)

MMCF = million cubic feet

MMBF = million board feet (Scribner short log)

Table 4. Selected Sensitivity Analyses and Related Changes in Allowable Sale Quantities

Base Alternative	Sensitivity Analysis	Changes in ASQs (MMCF)
B	Proposed Spotted Owl Recovery Plan	-134
D	Proposed Spotted Owl Recovery Plan	- 14
D	60 Year Minimum Harvest Age	-12
PA	Minimum Legal Riparian Protection	+ 4
PA	Scientific Panel on Late-Successional Ecosystems' Riparian Protection	- 10
PA	50-11-40 Rule	- 18
PA	No Harvest in Old Growth Ecosystem Areas	- 13

The OGEAs would be managed to promote stand diversification and development of structural characteristics (large trees, multiple canopies, snags and down logs) needed by species that prefer old-growth habitat. The young and mid-age forest stands in these areas would be managed to control their density to accelerate creation of such old-growth conditions. Density management techniques would be adaptive, as the efforts of BLM and others show what works best. These OGEAs would ultimately be subject to regeneration timber harvest (harvest done partly to open a forest stand enough so that favored tree species will be established), mostly on a cycle of about 300 years, with retention of biological legacies including 6 to 10 green trees per acre (more in the drier, southern portion of the Medford District and in a few OGEAs in the Salem District where regeneration harvest would begin upon plan approval). Such regeneration harvest of timber in most of these areas would not occur until all younger stands on BLM-administered lands in such an area are at least 80 years old and research has shown that such harvest can be designed to retain or quickly reestablish old-growth characteristics.

Regeneration harvest would occur in the first decade in some OGEAs that are not also designated conservation areas in the draft spotted owl recovery plan, and in one OGEA identified as a designated conservation area but currently supporting no known spotted owl pairs. This regeneration harvest would test the feasibility of a number of timber harvest techniques for maintenance of both old-growth conditions and sustained timber production, including harvest in small patch cuts (1/2 to 5 acres).

Most old-growth emphasis areas larger than several thousand acres would be linked by 206,000 acres in connectivity areas (also shown on map 2). Some 169,000 acres of those areas would be managed on a regeneration timber harvest cycle of 120 to 200 years, with retention of biological legacies including 12 to 18 green trees per acre (or less where harvest is in small patch cuts). Together these old-growth emphasis areas and connectivity areas would contribute to regional ecosystem diversity by linking to protected national forest lands. This would provide subregional and regional connectivity, including dispersal habitat between old growth emphasis areas; contribute to the recovery of the northern spotted owl; provide some old-growth structural characteristics, and produce a moderate timber supply. To bring the forest age classes on these areas into balance for long-term management, initial regeneration harvests on some areas would avoid older stands and focus on 50 or 60-year-old stands. These stands would also be managed to control their density, for the purpose of accelerating development of old-growth characteristics.

In the relatively dry forests of southern Oregon, 377,000 acres of forest land in general forest management areas would be managed similarly to the connectivity areas. About 237,000 of those acres would be managed by patchcutting (1 to 3 acres) on a minimum regeneration timber harvest cycle of 120 years, or by using individual tree selection. Green tree retention in the patch cuts would be similar to that in connectivity areas.

As of recent (1988-1991) compilations of current adjusted inventories, some 348,000 acres (16 percent) of the BLM-administered forest land had old-growth

(200-year-old) stands. Preferred alternative management would retain about 324,000 acres of old-growth forest at the end of the expected 10-year life of the RMPs and provide about 468,000 acres of old growth if the plans were continued for 100 years. The number of old-growth blocks exceeding 600 acres would be expected to decline from 59 to 55 in 10 years.

The most recent estimates of old-growth forest remaining on publicly owned lands in the region (western Oregon and Washington) indicate that there are about four million acres. About 2.3 million acres are in Oregon. Regional estimates of old-growth forest existing in the early 1800s, before the forests were substantially affected by white settlers, cluster around 20 million acres, some 60 to 70 percent of all forest land in the region. Prehistorically, this number would have fluctuated with the incidence of major stand-replacing fires.

The Forest Service's 1992 EIS on Management for the Northern Spotted Owl indicates that, 50 years from now, 2.4 of their 3.0 million acres of old growth in the western Oregon/Washington region would remain, and 2.2 million of that would be protected under the decision on that EIS. In western Oregon national forests, 1.3 million (of their 1.9 million) acres of old growth would remain after 50 years, with 1.2 million protected. After 10 years they would have 1.7 million acres remaining in western Oregon, 2.8 million regionwide. Ingrowth is not accounted for in the Forest Service figures.

In the absence of Forest Service estimates of stands that would attain old-growth condition as they age in the next 50 or 100 years, estimating the total amount of old growth expected to exist in the region in a hundred years is difficult. Conservatively assuming that some stands will age to old growth on national forest lands in 100 years, it appears that there would be at least 3.5 million acres of old growth in the region at that time. In 10 years the cumulative total on publicly owned lands (including National Parks) would be about 3.7 million acres under the BLM's preferred alternatives.

Timber

About 1,991,000 acres of BLM-administered forest lands were identified as suitable for timber production. In contrast, in the inventories of the late 1970s, 1,810,000 acres were identified as suitable for this purpose. These lands are considered capable of being reforested within five years after harvest and of being

managed without irreversible resource damage. Approximately 1,664,000 acres of these lands would be managed for timber production among other objectives.

The allocation of lands for timber production and other uses is shown graphically in figure 1. Some 913,000 acres allocated to planned timber harvest would be in general forest management areas. This would include some land managed under special restrictions to protect or enhance other resource values, such as visual resources and rural interface areas. Timber production under more extensive restrictions would also take place in connectivity areas and old growth emphasis areas. See table 3 for comparison with other alternatives.

Annual allowable timber sale quantities (ASQs) would total 97 million cubic feet (595 million board feet Scribner short log). This is 49 percent below current plan ASQs and 52 percent below the average harvested in the 1984-1988 period. Annual timber harvests from all ownerships in western Oregon in the late 1990s would be expected to total 1,034 million cubic feet, 17 percent below those of the mid-1980s. Under the preferred alternatives, BLM would contribute 9 percent of this total, compared to about 16 percent during 1984-1988.

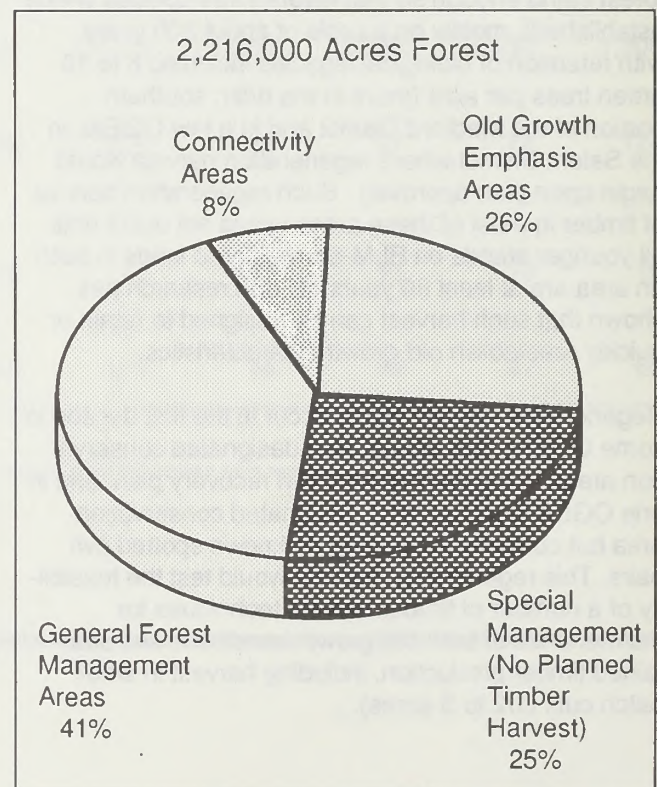


Figure 1. Land Use Allocations under Preferred Alternatives.

A million board feet would provide enough wood to build about 100 houses or supply the paper for a year's supply of a newspaper serving a local population of about 100,000.

Most lands in general forest management areas not under special restrictions would be managed on regeneration harvest cycles linked to the peak of average annual growth, ranging from 60 to 120 years. Biological legacies, including 6 to 8 green trees per acre, would be retained to assure forest health and sustainability of timber production and support cavity nesters and other species. Some timber would be harvested during density management on the old-growth emphasis areas and connectivity areas. Commercial thinning would be applied in general forest management areas where practicable and where research indicates there would be gains in timber production.

New timber harvest roads would be kept to the minimum necessary for management. Some 1,100 miles of new roads are expected to support timber sales sold during the life of the RMPs. This would expand the existing BLM timber management road network by about eight percent.

Four types of site preparation treatment would be used to prepare newly harvested and inadequately reforested areas for planting of trees: prescribed burning, herbicide application, and mechanical and manual techniques. Selection of treatments for site preparation, as well as for later management of vegetation that could suppress conifer seedlings, would use an integrated vegetation management approach, emphasizing techniques proven most effective at ensuring seedling survival and growth. This is in conformance with BLM's 1992 Record of Decision, Western Oregon Program - Management of Competing Vegetation. The preferred strategy is to prevent conditions that cause or favor the establishment of damaging levels of competing vegetation, while still providing for desired plant species diversity.

Although broadcast burning would be the primary site preparation method, it would be avoided on highly sensitive soils. Burning would be conducted under site-specific prescriptions in accordance with Oregon Smoke Management Plan rules and directives administered by the Oregon Department of Forestry, so that air quality would be maintained.

Harvested areas would be planted with indigenous commercial conifer tree species to promptly achieve adequate reforestation following regeneration timber

harvest. Genetically selected seedlings, from a broad selection of parent trees to maintain genetic diversity, would be used to the extent available.

Precommercial thinning and release would be applied in managed stands to meet both timber management and density management objectives. Fertilization would be applied to stands precommercially or commercially thinned, stands partially harvested for density management, and other stands where plantation spacing has achieved desired results. These intensive management practices, plus planned conversion of lands now growing brush or hardwoods to conifer stands, would contribute 43 MMBF (seven percent) of the preferred alternative annual ASQs. By comparison, in the current plans the same set of practices are expected to contribute over 12 percent of the ASQs.

Special Status (including Threatened and Endangered) Species Habitat

BLM management and permitting actions would be designed to protect federal listed or proposed threatened and endangered species. Proposed projects that might affect such species are reviewed with the Fish and Wildlife Service through consultation under the Endangered Species Act. Consistent with policy identified in BLM's nationwide Fish and Wildlife 2000 plan, habitats would be managed to maintain populations of federal candidate species at a level that would avoid endangering the species. BLM actions would be designed to similarly protect state-listed and Bureau sensitive species. Permitted and management actions would not be expected to lead to federal listing of any species. Table 5 shows the numbers of plant and animal species in the above-mentioned categories that have been identified as inhabiting BLM-administered lands in each planning area (district or resource area).

To support the Pacific Bald Eagle Recovery Plan, all existing nest sites would be protected and additional lands would be excluded from harvest to maintain their potential to provide future nest sites.

Habitat of the marbled murrelet would be expected to decline in the short term, but increase over 100 years under the preferred alternatives.

The northern spotted owl recovery plan was not final when the BLM's preferred alternatives were developed. Elements of the Draft Recovery Plan, however, were

Table 5. Special Status Species Found on BLM-Administered Lands.

Planning Area Category	Number of Plant Species						Number of Animal Species					
	S	E	R	CB	M	KF	S	E	R	CB	M	KF
Federal Threatened	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	2	5	2	2
Federal Endangered	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	2	1	3
Federal Proposed	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	1	1	0
Federal Candidate	3	3	3	6	26	0	39	9	7	4	16	2
State Listed	1	1	1	0	2	1	7	3	3	6	2	4
Bureau Sensitive	3	2	3	5	13	1	1	2	1	8	1	0

S=Salem, E=Eugene, R=Roseburg, CB=Coos Bay, M=Medford, KF=Klamath Falls.

included in the preferred alternatives, including protective management of proposed designated conservation areas, with all of them included in old-growth emphasis areas. Those areas would be managed to accelerate the development of spotted owl habitat where such habitat does not exist. Connectivity areas would be managed to provide spotted owl dispersal and support habitat. In addition, 80 to 100 acres around each site occupied by an owl pair would be protected until the site is vacated and the habitat is no longer considered important to spotted owl recovery. None of these acres around each site would be harvested during the life of this plan.

The Forest Service's 1992 EIS on Management for the Northern Spotted Owl identifies 8,204,000 acres of northern spotted owl nesting, roosting and forage habitat on all lands in California, Oregon and Washington, of which 4,119,000 is in Oregon. They estimate that their preferred alternative would reduce such habitat on national forests from 6,073,000 acres to 5,605,000 in 50 years, with recovery to 6,025,000 acres 100 years from now. BLM's preferred alternative would reduce such habitat on BLM-administered lands from 1,009,000 acres in 1990 to 830,000 in ten years and 793,000 in 70 years, but it would recover to 1,201,000 acres 100 years from now.

Analysis of the effects of BLM's preferred alternative management in a spatial population model indicates that the habitat resulting from this management after ten years would support (long-term carrying capacity) from 86 to 232 pairs of spotted owls. After 100 years the habitat would support from 205 to 474 pairs of owls. The ranges vary according to optimism of assumptions about the relationship between the amount of a suitable habitat at a location and pair

formation and reproduction. In comparison, spotted owl monitoring in 1991 actually found 594 pairs of owls. The population model, however, indicates that current habitat can continue to support only 75 to 110 pairs. The carrying capacity figures may not represent the population at a given point in time because of lag time involved in owl populations responding to changing habitat conditions.

Using a different method than the model BLM used, the Forest Service's spotted owl EIS projected a long-term (150 year) habitat capability on National Forest lands of 1,894 pairs throughout the region, for the alternative the Forest Service chose. Owls supported by BLM's preferred alternatives would supplement that, particularly in some key locations, such as the Oregon Coast Range. This long-term cumulative effects picture would be increased somewhat by National Park Service and state lands in Washington and private and other publicly owned lands in California, but only slightly by other lands in Oregon. The population at these levels is expected to be viable.

Other Wildlife (including Fish) Habitat

The old-growth emphasis areas and the connectivity areas linking them would provide biological connectivity for a variety of species. To contribute to diversity, nonmerchantable down, dead woody material would be retained on timber harvest areas. Enough green trees and snags would be identified for retention to contribute to long-term support of cavity nester populations on BLM-administered lands in the six planning areas of an estimated 49 to 61 percent of the optimum

population level of dominant woodpeckers. This compares to a current condition estimate varying among the planning areas from 40 percent to 61 percent.

Special habitats such as talus slopes, meadows and wetlands would be managed to protect their primary habitat values. They would also be protected from adjacent management activities by buffers of 100 to 200 feet when considered to be significant by interdisciplinary planning teams.

The habitat of elk and other species would be protected through closure of certain roads to the public to minimize disturbance. To help meet population goals of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, forage plants would be seeded. This would be done following timber harvest in big game management areas where forage is considered deficient and where seeding would be compatible with other resource objectives. Such seeding is expected to maintain or improve habitat conditions on BLM-administered lands.

Consistent with BLM's nationwide Fish and Wildlife 2000 plan, the fisheries potential of anadromous fish streams would be enhanced. Large woody debris and snags in and adjacent to streams would be retained unless the debris obstructs fish passage or has the potential to degrade a stream channel. In combination with BLM riparian zone protection, this management would be expected to contribute to an overall long-term (200-year) increase of salmon and steelhead on streams affected by habitat on BLM-administered lands. To the extent of available funding, fish habitat improvement projects would be undertaken to correct factors limiting anadromous fish production. Included would be projects improving 441 miles of existing stream habitat for salmon and steelhead.

Special Areas

All but one existing area of critical environmental concern (ACEC) would be retained. An additional 41 areas would be designated as ACECs. This would include 16 new research natural areas (RNAs), which would increase the number of RNAs on BLM-administered land in western Oregon to 33.

Recreation

Consistent with BLM's nationwide *Recreation 2000* plan, lands would be managed for a wide variety of recreation opportunities.

All but one of the 62 existing recreation sites would remain open. Up to 108 additional sites would be constructed if funding is available. The emphasis of facility management and development would be to accommodate increasing demand for recreation opportunities close to population centers and accessible by road.

Twenty-eight road segments (both BLM roads and county roads on BLM-administered lands) would be designated Back Country Byways, components of the National Scenic Byway System.

As part of management of the use of off-road vehicles, 101,000 acres would be closed to vehicle uses to protect special values. Use for administrative purposes and authorized removal of commercial commodities such as timber would be excepted. Some 1.7 million acres would be open to limited use and 1.1 million acres open without limitations.

Demand for all recreation activities would be expected to increase during the life of the RMP. Expected demand would be met for all activities except off-road travel. Demand for that use would be met in most of the planning areas.

Additional emphasis would be placed on interpretive and informational signing and maps to support state and local strategies for encouraging tourism.

Wild and Scenic Rivers

Eleven river segments totaling 131 miles would be found suitable for potential designation by Congress under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. These segments are identified in table 6. About 609 other river miles found eligible for designation and studied by BLM would be found not suitable for such designation.

If designated by Congress, these river segments would be additions to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The present status of that system in western Oregon, and its relationship to the nationwide system, is summarized in table 7.

Visual Resources

About 40,000 acres protected by Congressional designation, and in other highly sensitive areas, would be managed for preservation of scenic quality. Some 218,000 acres of other highly sensitive land would be managed so that landscape alterations caused by management would not attract attention, to retain

Table 6. Suitable Wild and Scenic Rivers

Planning Area	River Name	Segment Length Miles	Proposed Classification
Salem	Molalla River	12	Recreational
Salem	Nestucca River	15	Recreational
Eugene	McKenzie River	11	Recreational
Eugene	Siuslaw River, Segment B	46	Recreational
Eugene	Siuslaw River, Segment C	13	Recreational
Medford	Mule Creek	5	Wild
Medford	Big Windy Creek	7	Wild
Medford	E. Fork Windy Creek	4	Wild
Medford	Dulog Creek	2	Wild
Medford	Howard Creek	7	Wild
Klamath Falls	Klamath River	11	Scenic

Table 7. Wild and Scenic River Status and BLM Proposals

	Number	Miles
Free-flowing segments found eligible by BLM	135	NA
Eligible segments deferred for later study	56	NA
Eligible segments studied by BLM and proposed to be found suitable for designation	11	131
Eligible segments studied and proposed to be found not suitable	68	609
USFS W. Oregon rivers to be studied	31 ¹	335
Existing river segments designated, W. Oregon	15 ²	390 ²
Existing river segments designated, Oregon total	47 ²	1,657 ²
Existing river segments designated, all states	181 ²	10,291 ²

NA = Not applicable

¹55 segments. These figures do not include rivers that the Forest Service has committed to study to determine if they are eligible. The numbers provided for the Forest Service are as of April 1992. Ongoing Forest Service river planning may change them by the time this summary is published.

²According to National Park Service, as of May 1992. Rivers are segmented only by management jurisdiction (e.g., BLM, USFS)

scenic quality. An additional 583,000 acres of visually sensitive lands would be managed so that landscape alterations would not dominate the view and to partially retain scenic quality.

Cultural Resources

Prehistoric and historic sites would continue to be identified and managed for their public and scientific uses.

Land Tenure

Land adjustments would emphasize exchanges to benefit multiple resource values. O&C and Coos Bay Wagon Road land available for timber management would not be exchanged for lands to be managed for a single purpose. Lands would be categorized in the following zones: 768,000 acres where lands would be retained in BLM administration; 1,740,000 acres where land ownership may be blocked up in exchanges for other lands, transferred to other public agencies or given some form of cooperative management; and 36,000 acres of lands scattered and isolated, with no known unique resource values. BLM-administered lands in the last category would be exchanged for private inholdings in the other zones or could be considered for sale or for transfer to another agency or local government.

Energy and Minerals

Most BLM-administered lands would remain available for mineral leasing (of oil and gas or geothermal resources) and location of mining claims. But a variety of designations and allocations (for example, areas of critical environmental concern or closure to off-road vehicles) would restrict exploration and development. There would be some increase in restrictions compared to current plans, primarily due to protection of special areas, recreation sites and threatened and endangered species habitat.

Rural Interface Area Management

VRM Class III management and/or other special timber management practices would be applied on 193,000 acres of BLM-administered lands within 1/4 mile of

private lands where county zoning allows for development on small (usually 1 to 20-acre) lots.

Socioeconomic Conditions

BLM timber management programs would support an average of about 6,300 jobs and provide \$124 million a year in personal income in western Oregon during the life of the plans. Those jobs are 6,080 (49 percent) less than the average supported in the 1984-1988 period. Recreation activities on BLM-administered lands are expected to support about 1,310 jobs, and provide \$16 million a year in personal income. Those jobs are 320 more than 1988, an increase attributable mostly to increasing demand. Receipts shared with counties and other payments to local governments linked to resource sales are estimated to average \$62 million a year, slightly above the average for 1984-1988, due to anticipated increases in timber prices.

Timber-industry jobs were 6.8 percent of all western Oregon jobs during the late 1980s, according to a recent report. In non-metropolitan areas, however, they were 11.9 percent of all jobs, and much more in some communities. Each job within the timber industry supports approximately one other non-timber job. The net decline in jobs cited above is in addition to an expected decline in jobs that would be supported by combined future U.S. Forest Service, private and other timber supplies. The cumulative western Oregon decline caused by changing harvest levels on all ownerships would be 19,000 jobs. This would entail substantial job losses in some western Oregon communities highly dependent on timber industry jobs, with consequent adverse effects on community stability.

Jobs are also supported by downstream and offshore recreational and commercial fishing for fish supported by BLM habitat. However, fishing opportunities related to BLM management are not expected to change in the next ten years.

Monitoring the RMPs

Monitoring and evaluation of each resource management plan would be carried out at appropriate intervals for the following purposes:

- To be sure activities are occurring in conformance with the RMP.
- To determine if activities are producing the expected results.
- To determine if activities are causing the effects identified in the environmental impact statement.

Public Involvement

Public involvement has been an integral part of BLM's Resource Management Planning effort. Activities have included mailers or brochures, public meetings, open houses, field trips, distribution of planning documents and related comment periods, informal contacts, group meetings, written letters and responses to comments. These efforts began in May 1986.

Subsequent mailers at least once a year requested comments on topics including issue identification, development of planning criteria contained in State Director Guidance for the process, and each district's analysis of the management situation which set the

baseline for development of each Draft RMP/EIS. Suggestions for formulation of each preferred alternative were also requested.

The six draft RMP/EISs have been released for public review and comment until December 21, 1992. After comments on those documents are received in the appropriate district or resource area office, they will be evaluated. Substantive recommendations may lead to changes in the analysis of environmental consequences or one or more of an RMP's alternatives. The proposed RMP/final EISs are expected to be completed for public review next summer. Any protests on one of those documents will be reviewed and addressed by the director of BLM before a record of decision on an RMP is completed.

Public Involvement

Public involvement in BLM's planning process is a key component of the Resource Management Planning process. Public involvement includes public hearings, public meetings, public review, and other methods of gathering information and input from the public. Public involvement is a key component of the planning process and is required by law.

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